

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Bag - Man  
(yellow)

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Action

Classification

Control: 874

NEA

Rec'd: January 3, 1959

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Info

FROM: Baghdad

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

SS

NO: 1986, January 3, 1 p.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 1986, REPEATED INFORMATION BEIRUT 414, LONDON 297, ROME 189, TEHRAN 220.

SENT BY OTHER MEANS KUWAIT 23.

Embassy telegram 1872 paragraph numbered 2.

Enquiries Embassy has made of Foreign Ministry and Iranian Embassy have yielded information that GOI in past few days wrote note to Iranian Embassy taking exception to terms of concession granted by Iranian Government to Italian comment since concession area considered include area under Iraqis sovereignty. In talking over matter with Foreign Under Secretary Zakariya he said implied Iranian claim would encroach upon Iraqi territorial waters if principle of equi-distance applied to arrive at seaward frontier between two countries. It seems probable Iraqis will advocate application of this principle.

In describing Iraqi note Iranian Charge called it "conciliatory" and said Iraqis proposed settlement through negotiation or some other agreed procedure. Embassy Tehran may be able obtain more information re Iraqi de marche.

Involved in question of determining seaward frontier is agreement on base line from which measurements are made. So far no agreement has been reached between parties as to whether high or low watermark should represent base line.

FRITZLAN

MMC:HLH

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